THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the debt relief provided to farmers during the year 1990-91. It may be stated that Government of India formulated the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 for providing debt relief to a selected category of borrowers of public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) who complied with eligibility criteria prescribed under the Scheme. The State Governments also formulated their own schemes for borrowers of cooperatives. The public sector banks and RRBs were to be reimbursed as per extant policy guidelines by the Central Government on account of such debt relief provided by the banks. The reimbursement to cooperative banks was to be shared between the State Government and Central Government on a 50 : 50 basis.

Under the Scheme, which was made effective from 15th May, 1990, debt relief was provided to cover the overdues of the eligible borrowers who had taken loans from cooperative banks, RRBs and public sector banks as on 2nd October, 1989 and the relief amount was limited upto Rs. 10,000- per borrower. The ARDR Scheme has come to a close on 31st March, 1991.

(b) and (c) The claims of institutions have been settled in full as per the extant policy guidelines.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Tobacco

3558. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tobacco exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of last three years;

(b) how much virginia tobacco from Andhra Pradesh was exported;

(c) whether prices of virginia tobacco were competitive to that of other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide incentive to the tobacco growers to earn foreign exchange; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of tobacco exported during the last three years are as follows :

(Quantity : Tonnes; Value : Rs. Crores)

Item	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Tobacco	104676	461.19	53732	254.75	71430	365.81

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Exports of tobacco were not classified by State of origin of the product.

(c) and (d) The prices of tobacco prevailing in the international and domestic markets are as such not comparable on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality, additional expenditures incurred in grading and packaging for exports, domestic processing conditions and terms of trade.

(e) and (f) Some of the steps taken by Tobacco Board to enhance productio, productivity and quality of tobacco as an incentive to enhance exports are :

(i) Supply of seeds/seedlings of high yielding and disease resistant varieties of FCV/Burley tobacco;

(ii) Pest and disease control through fumigation of nurseries;

(iii) Encouraging use of sprinkler irrigation system;

(iv) Improving curing and storing facilities;

(v) Arranging supply of inputs such as coal (for curing), fertilisers, and suckercides, and

(vi) training and exposure of farmers to latest research findings.

Transfer of Shares

3559. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit under section 113 of the Companies Act, 1956 has been fixed for registration of transfer of shares, debentures etc. by Limited Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the penalties prescribed for violation of these guidelines;

(c) whether the SEBI has been obtaining such information from the Companies;

(d) if so, the details of fines, penalties collected from the defaulting Companies, company-wise;

(e) whether the Deptt. of Company Affairs has